

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 16 (canceled).

1    **17.** (previously presented) An electric connector for  
2    electrically connecting a first article and a second  
3    article with each other, wherein the first article includes  
4    an electric wire and the second article includes a  
5    conductive part, said electric connector comprising:

6           a housing, which is fitted onto at least one selected  
7    one of the articles, and

8           a crimping contact, which is provided in a cavity in  
9    the housing and has a crimpable connecting part to be  
10   connected to the electric wire of the first article within  
11   the cavity of the housing and a contacting part protruding  
12   out of the cavity to be made to contact, with a pressing  
13   force, the conductive part of the second article, wherein  
14   the crimpable connecting part includes a crimpable wire  
15   barrel to be crimped onto an electrical conductor core of  
16   the electric wire and a crimpable insulation barrel to be  
17   crimped onto an insulation jacket of the electric wire.

1    **18.** (previously presented) The electric connector as recited in  
2    claim 17, wherein the housing has such a configuration that  
3    the housing can be fitted into a recessed part in the  
4    selected one of the articles, and the housing is fitted  
5    onto the selected one of the articles by being fitted into  
6    the recessed part.

1     **19.**   (previously presented) The electric connector as recited in  
2           claim 18, wherein the housing is provided with a wing,  
3           which is elastically deformed to press a longitudinal wall  
4           of the recessed part when the housing is inserted into the  
5           recessed part, and the housing is fitted onto the selected  
6           one of the articles by a pressure exerted by the wing.

1     **20.**   (currently amended) ~~An~~ The electric connector as recited in  
2           claim 19, wherein the housing is further provided with a  
3           locking pawl, and the housing is fitted onto one of the  
4           articles other than the selected one of the articles by  
5           fitting the locking pawl onto the one of the articles other  
6           than the selected one of the articles.

1     **21.**   (currently amended) ~~An~~ The electric connector as recited in  
2           claim 18, wherein the housing is provided with a locking  
3           pawl, and the housing is fitted onto one of the articles  
4           other than the selected one of the articles by fitting the  
5           locking pawl onto the one of the articles other than the  
6           selected one of the articles.

1     **22.**   (currently amended) ~~An~~ The electric connector as recited in  
2           claim 17, wherein the housing has such a configuration that  
3           the housing can be fitted into a recessed part formed in  
4           the selected one of the articles, the housing is provided  
5           with a wing, which is elastically deformed to press a  
6           longitudinal wall of the recessed part when the housing is

7 inserted into the recessed part, and the housing is fitted  
8 onto the selected one of the articles by a pressure exerted  
9 by the wing.

1 23. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The electric connector as recited in  
2 claim 22, wherein the housing is further provided with a  
3 locking pawl, and the housing is fitted onto one of the  
4 articles other than the selected one of the articles by  
5 fitting the locking pawl onto the one of the articles other  
6 than the selected one of the articles.

1 24. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The electric connector as recited in  
2 claim 17, wherein the housing is provided with a locking  
3 pawl, and the housing is fitted onto the selected one of  
4 the articles by fitting the locking pawl onto the selected  
5 one of the articles.

1 25. (currently amended) ~~An electrical~~ The electric connector  
2 ~~comprising:~~ as recited in claim 17, wherein:  
3 the housing is an electrically insulating housing;  
4 ~~having a cavity therein; and~~  
5 ~~an electrically conductive contact member including a~~  
6 ~~wire connecting part that is situated in said cavity and~~  
7 ~~that is configured and adapted to be connected to a wire,~~  
8 ~~and a contacting part that is exposed out of said cavity~~  
9 ~~and that is configured and adapted to be pressingly~~  
10 ~~contacted against an electrical contact;~~

11       ~~wherein said~~ the housing includes a block-shaped body  
12       and two elastically deflectable wings protruding laterally  
13       outwardly in respective opposite directions from two  
14       opposite side surfaces of ~~said~~ the block-shaped body; and

15       ~~wherein said~~ the wings are configured and adapted to  
16       selectively take up two positions including a first  
17       position in which ~~said~~ the wings are unstressed and  
18       protrude respectively laterally outwardly in ~~said~~ the  
19       respective opposite directions from ~~said~~ the two opposite  
20       side surfaces of ~~said~~ the block-shaped body, and a second  
21       position in which ~~said~~ the wings are elastically deflected  
22       and stressed to extend respectively along and adjacent to  
23       ~~said~~ the two side surfaces of ~~said~~ the block-shaped body  
24       while exerting an elastic restoring force outwardly away  
25       from ~~said~~ the two opposite side surfaces in ~~said~~ the  
26       respective opposite directions.

1       26. (currently amended) ~~An electrical~~ The electric connector  
2       ~~comprising:~~ as recited in claim 17, wherein:

3       the housing is an electrically insulating housing;  
4       ~~having a cavity therein; and~~

5       ~~an electrically conductive contact member including a~~  
6       ~~wire connecting part that is situated in said cavity and~~  
7       ~~that is configured and adapted to be connected to a wire,~~  
8       ~~and a contacting part that is exposed out of said cavity~~  
9       ~~and that is configured and adapted to be pressingly~~  
10       ~~contacted against an electrical contact;~~

11       ~~wherein said~~ the housing includes a block-shaped body  
12 including a major surface having an opening through which  
13 ~~said~~ the contacting part protrudes in a contacting  
14 direction normal to ~~said~~ the major surface, two side  
15 surfaces respectively extending from opposite edges of ~~said~~  
16 the major surface, and two locking pawls respectively  
17 extending along ~~said~~ the two side surfaces parallel to each  
18 other and to ~~said~~ the contacting direction and protruding  
19 away from ~~said~~ the block-shaped body parallel to ~~said~~ the  
20 contacting direction; and

21       ~~wherein said~~ the locking pawls are each elastically  
22 deflectable in a direction toward and/or away from each  
23 other parallel to ~~said~~ the major surface.

1       **27.** (new) The electric connector as recited in claim 17,  
2 wherein the housing is an electrically insulating housing  
3 having the cavity therein and having plural housing outer  
4 sidewalls, with a fitting member provided on at least one  
5 of the sidewalls, wherein the fitting member is configured  
6 and adapted to fittingly engage the selected one of the  
7 first article or the second article so as to mechanically  
8 connect the electric connector to the selected one of the  
9 first article or the second article.

1       **28.** (new) The electric connector as recited in claim 27,  
2 wherein the fitting member has therein a fitting groove,  
3 which is configured and adapted to fittingly receive

4        therein a fitting protrusion of the selected one of the  
5        first article or the second article.

1        **29.** (new) The electric connector as recited in claim 28,  
2        wherein the fitting groove includes a tapered groove mouth  
3        at at least one end of the fitting groove, wherein the  
4        tapered groove mouth widens toward the at least one end.

1        **30.** (new) The electric connector as recited in claim 28,  
2        wherein the fitting member has two flat planar faces that  
3        are oriented facing outwardly away from the housing and  
4        that border on the fitting groove therebetween.

1        **31.** (new) A combination for establishing an electrical and  
2        mechanical interconnection, comprising:

3                a first article including a first article casing and  
4                a first conductive part being an electric wire;

5                a second article including a second article casing and  
6                a second conductive part; and

7                an electrical connector including an electrically  
8                insulating housing with a cavity therein, an electrically  
9                conductive contact member that is received at least  
10                partially in said cavity of said housing, and a  
11                connector-side mechanical fixing structure provided on said  
12                housing;

13                wherein said contact member includes a crimped wire  
14                terminal that is mechanically and electrically connected to  
15                said electric wire of said first article by being crimped

16 thereon, and a contacting part that is exposed from said  
17 housing and pressed against and electrically contacted with  
18 said second conductive part of said second article; and

19 wherein one of said first article casing and said  
20 second article casing has a first recess in said casing,  
21 said housing of said electrical connector is at least  
22 partially fitted into and received in said first recess,  
23 and said connector-side mechanical fixing structure  
24 mechanically engages with a portion of said one of said  
25 first article casing and said second article casing and  
26 thereby mechanically fixes said electrical connector  
27 thereto.

1 **32.** (new) The combination according to claim 31, wherein said  
2 portion of said one of said first article casing and said  
3 second article casing comprises a casing-side mechanical  
4 fixing structure in said recess, and said connector-side  
5 mechanical fixing structure is mechanically engaged with  
6 said casing-side mechanical fixing structure.

1 **33.** (new) The combination according to claim 32, wherein said  
2 connector-side mechanical fixing structure comprises a  
3 fitting groove, said casing-side mechanical fixing  
4 structure comprises a protrusion on a sidewall of said  
5 first recess, and said protrusion fittingly engages into  
6 said fitting groove when said electrical connector is at  
7 least partially fitted into and received in said first  
8 recess.

1     **34.**   (new) The combination according to claim 32, wherein said  
2           connector-side mechanical fixing structure comprises a  
3           locking pawl protruding from said housing, said casing-side  
4           mechanical fixing structure comprises a catch rim, and said  
5           locking pawl engages onto said catch rim when said  
6           electrical connector is at least partially fitted into and  
7           received in said first recess.

1     **35.**   (new) The combination according to claim 31, wherein said  
2           portion of said one of said first article casing and said  
3           second article casing comprises a sidewall of said first  
4           recess, said connector-side mechanical fixing structure  
5           comprises at least one elastically deflectable wing  
6           protruding laterally from said housing, and said  
7           elastically deflectable wing is elastically deflected and  
8           elastically urged to press and engage against said sidewall  
9           when said electrical connector is at least partially fitted  
10          into and received in said first recess.

1     **36.**   (new) The combination according to claim 31, wherein said  
2           housing of said electrical connector is press-fitted and  
3           frictionally engaged into said first recess.

1     **37.**   (new) The combination according to claim 31, wherein  
2           another of said first article casing and said second  
3           article casing not having said first recess has a second  
4           recess therein, and said housing of said electrical

5 connector is at least partially fitted into and received in  
6 said second recess.

1 **38.** (new) The combination according to claim 31, wherein said  
2 second conductive part of said second article is a circuit  
3 board contact pad, and said first article casing is said  
4 one of said casings that has said first recess therein.

1 **39.** (new) The combination according to claim 31, wherein said  
2 second conductive part of said second article is a circuit  
3 board contact pad, and said second article casing is said  
4 one of said casings that has said first recess therein.

**[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]**